

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Terry Patterson Shooting Preserve

Application Date: 4/08/02

Name, Address and Phone Number: Terry Patterson

HC 84 Box 3044

Forsyth, MT 59327

406-342-5475

Project Location: 4N 39E SEC 30 & 4N 38E SEC 24. ROSEBUD AND TREASURE

COUNTIES

Description of Project: Terry Patterson proposes to move his 260 acre shooting preserve on Sheep Creek approximately 2 miles west to his property near the head of Reservation Creek. The proposed preserve would encompass 320 acres. The preserve would be used for commercial purposes for the paying general public to hunt upland game birds including pen reared pheasant, quail and hungarian partridge.

Terry Patterson will operate the preserve according to the regulations outlined in MCA title 87, chapter 4, parts 5 and 9, and ARM regulations 12.6.1201-1202 and 12.6.1601-1604. State Game Warden Jim Smolczynski visited the proposed site and discussed the proposal with State Biologist Scott Denson. Overall, the habitat was determined marginal to poor for pheasant, and hungarian partridge. No quail exist in this area and are unlikely to survive in the wild.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats			x			
3. Introduction of new species into an area			X			
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites	x					X
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics			X			

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

(9) The applicant is unaware of any historical or archaeological sites in the proposed area

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities			X			
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

Not Significant

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

1. No Action Alternative: Under the no-action alternative, the facility would not be licensed. The existing shooting preserve, 2 miles east of the proposed facility would continue to operate.
2. Preferred Alternative: The preferred alternative is to license this facility to Terry Patterson and allow the shooting preserve to be operated at the new site. The existing facility 2 miles east of the proposed facility would no longer be licensed

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is legally obligated to allow shooting preserves upon proper application and environmental assessment provided there are no significant impacts identified.

Requirements and suggested mitigation measures for licensure include:

- (1) The applicant must follow regulations outlined in MCA title 87, chapter 4, parts 5 & 9, and ARM Regulations 12.6.1201-12.6.1202 and 12.6.1601-12.6.1604
- (2) All game birds released on this preserve should be obtained from a National Poultry Improvement Plan(NPIP) certified game bird farm.
- (3) Pen-reared birds should be released the day they are to be harvested. A maximum of 80% total number of birds released may be harvested for each species.
- (4) A minimum number of 100 pheasants, 20 quail, 10 hungarian partridge will be released each year on preserve.
- (5) All pen-reared birds are to be marked prior to release. If "peeper holes" are not readily identifiable, the birds can be marked by toe clipping or banding. The shooting preserve records will be modified to record the number of both pen-reared and wild birds harvested on the shooting preserve.

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

EA prepared by: Jim Smolczynski

Date Completed: 07/10/02

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

Describe public involvement, if any: The EA was made available on the FWP website under public notices from July 17, 2002 until July 31, 2002. Comments should be directed to Jim Smolczynski at jimsmol@rangeweb.net or mailed to Jim Smolczynski at P.O. Box 621, Forsyth, Mt. 59327-0621.

Recommendation for license approval:

Wildlife Manager

Date

Warden Captain

Date